

July 25, 1955

Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners
24 Branford Place
Newark 2, N.J.

SDMS Document



111000

Re: Dead Fish in Passaic River.

Gentlemen:

On July 22, 1955 at 9:30 a.m., Sergeant Morton of the Passaic Police called on the telephone to report the presence of numerous dead fish in the Passaic River in the vicinity of Third Street, Passaic.

We started investigation immediately. No pollution was found and chemical and microscopical tests indicated that the long-sustained high temperature of the river water, (88° F.), the excessive growth of microscopic water plants (algae) causing a heavy super-saturation of dissolved oxygen in the water from the photo-synthetic action of the sunlight on the green chlorophyll of the algae, all had been harmful to the fish and they had died from natural causes.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard E. Smith

Director of Sanitation Control.